

JANUARY 26, 1808.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole house
on Friday next.

A Bill,

Concerning public contracts.



1 Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of*
2 *the United States of America, in congress assembled,* That from
3 and after the passage of this act, no officer of the United States
4 shall, on behalf of the United States, make any contract, bargain
5 or agreement, in writing or otherwise, with any member or mem-
6 bers of congress, or with any person, for his or their use, and every
7 such contract, bargain or agreement, shall be deemed and taken
8 to be absolutely void and of no effect, whether such contract, bar-
9 gain, or agreement be openly, or covertly, in the whole or in part,
10 for the use of any such member as aforesaid: *Provided,* That this
11 restriction shall not be construed to extend to the purchase, where

No punishment inflicted on
members
18 April 1808

12 immediate delivery is had, and immediate payment is made, of any
 13 property, which, at the time of such purchase, was bona fide the
 14 property of and belonging to any such member or members, in
 15 his or their right, or as assignee in law, or fact, not purchased or
 16 procured in consequence of any previous arrangement with, or pro-
 17 mise from any public officer, or any agent of such public officer.

1 Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That if any officer of the United
 2 States shall knowingly make or enter into any contract, bargain or
 3 agreement, other than such as are herein excepted, in writing or
 4 otherwise, on behalf of the United States, with any member or
 5 members of congress, or with any person for his or their use, be
 7 such use open or covert, or if such officer shall authorize any
 8 other person to make such contract, bargain or agreement, such
 9 officer so offending shall be deemed and taken to be guilty of a high
 10 crime and misdemeanor, and shall be removed from office, and
 11 ever after shall be incapable of holding any office under the
 12 United States: *Provided*, That nothing in this act contained shall
 13 be construed to prohibit, alter or affect any sale, contract, bargain
 14 or agreement made for public lands. This act shall commence and
 15 be in force from and after the passing hereof.

*Reasonable price must be
 by in public lands.*